

GENERAL NOTES

The Carolina Chickadee in Kansas.—W. A. Lunk (1952. *Wilson Bull.*, 64:7-21), in an interesting and useful paper on variation in the Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*), has described a new form, *P. c. atricapilloides*, ranging from Kansas through Oklahoma to central Texas. Among the Kansas records, two listed from Douglas County aroused the curiosity of Wetmore, long familiar with that area through his undergraduate days at the University of Kansas at Lawrence. The Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) is common there, but the other species, except for this record, has never been reported. On inquiry, Lunk kindly indicated that the two skins concerned were at the University of Oklahoma, allegedly having been collected by Charles D. Bunker on September 10, 1898.

Sutton examined the two specimens, comparing them and their labels with all specimens of *P. carolinensis* and *P. atricapillus* in the collection, and consulting all available catalogues. Deciding, finally, that Wetmore, who knew Bunker and his methods well, should see all specimens of comparable locality, date, or catalogue number, Sutton sent a series of seven to Washington. With this material in hand, Wetmore decided that the two moot birds had been wrongly labelled through some clerical error.

Bunker was associated with the University Museum at Norman for a period. He not only collected at numerous localities in Oklahoma, but also took a small number of specimens near his home at Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas, during this connection. It was his practice to use small tags marked only with a number in the field, and to prepare labels with complete data on locality, date, and other details later. In some way these two Carolina Chickadees, which bore only field numbers, must have become confused with certain Lawrence specimens, and so were wrongly attributed to that locality.

The mixup becomes the more evident through direct comparison of the two moot birds with a specimen of Black-capped Chickadee that it appears was actually taken by Bunker at Lawrence on September 10, 1898. The "make" of this Black-cap and the type of its field label differ decidedly from the "make" and field label of the two Carolinas. The field number of the Black-cap is 89, of the other two 324 and 325 respectively. Obviously the three birds are not of the same series. It seems probable that the two Carolinas were taken not in Kansas, but in Oklahoma, and by another collector, and that they were labelled wrongly through some confusion later, when permanent labels were prepared.

The northern limit of *P.c. atricapilloides* in Kansas is not, therefore, Douglas County, but Meade, Greenwood, and Montgomery counties, instead, and range statements concerning the form should so read.—ALEXANDER WETMORE AND GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. and Museum of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, May 4, 1953.*

Nesting of the White-throated Sparrow in West Virginia.—A considerable southward extension of the known breeding range of this species, *Zonotrichia albicollis*, is worthy of record. The A.O.U. Check-List of 1931 gives the most southerly localities of its nesting as the mountains of northeast Pennsylvania and New York. Todd ("Birds of Western Pennsylvania") suspected it of nesting in the northwest corner of that state but had no records.